

Checklist for Prospective Mariculture Permittees

Regardless of what type permit you receive from SCDHEC's Ocean and Coastal Resource Management (OCRM) and the Army Corps, you cannot begin any operation without an SCDNR permit. Furthermore the only agency which can give you permission for a specific area is SCDNR. Therefore it is critical to start your permit process with SCDNR.

SCDNR Shellfish Management contact information:

Henry DaVega (843) 953-0126 davegaw@dnr.sc.gov

Lee Taylor (843) 953-9391 taylorL@dnr.sc.gov

Nancy Hadley (843) 953-9841 hadleyn@dnr.sc.gov

1. Have you been a resident of the state of SC for at least one year? If a business is applying, has it been incorporated and operating in SC for at least one year? If not, you do not qualify.
2. What species do you plan to grow?
 - a. Hard clams? Continue to question 3
 - b. American oyster? Continue to question 3
 - c. Other? Contact SCDNR Shellfish Management to determine if you can get a permit.
3. Have you selected an area where you want to grow your shellfish?
 - a. Yes? Go to question 4
 - b. No? You must select an area. Contact SCDNR Shellfish Management for assistance and to view maps of the shellfish growing area.
4. Is your selected area in a SCDHEC Shellfish Management Area?
 - a. Shellfish Management Area delineations can be found at www.scdhec.gov/shellfish.
 - b. Yes? Go to question 5
 - c. No? You do not qualify for a shellfish mariculture permit. Shellfish mariculture permits must be located in a SCDHEC Shellfish Management area.
5. Is your selected area classified as "Approved" for shellfish harvesting?
 - a. Shellfish harvesting classifications can be found at www.scdhec.gov/shellfish. Select your general area to bring up a detailed map.
 - b. Yes? Go to question 6.
 - c. No? SCDNR does not normally issue mariculture permits for areas that are not classified "Approved." If you feel you have a special circumstance that might warrant such a permit please contact SCDNR Shellfish Management to discuss your proposal.
6. Will you grow your shellfish in confinement for at least part of the growout period?
 - a. Yes? Go to question 7
 - b. No? You probably do not qualify for a mariculture permit. Please contact SCDNR Shellfish Management to discuss your options.
7. What confinement method will you use?
 - a. Are you using 'Soft mariculture,' 'bottom bags,' or 'bottom plant with flexible mesh cover?' Those usually qualify for a general permit from OCRM. Go to question 8.
 - b. Are you using 'On-bottom' or 'just off-bottom cages?' Then you may qualify for general permit from OCRM. Go to question 8.
 - c. Are you using 'Floating cages?' These may require an Individual Permit from OCRM and USACE. See question 9.
8. Based on your answers, you probably need the following permits:
 - a. SCDNR Shellfish Mariculture Permit (\$25)

- b. OCRM General mariculture permit (free) USACE NWP 48 (free)
 - c. Begin your application process by requesting a joint application package from SCDNR.
9. Based on your answers, in addition to the SCDNR Shellfish Mariculture Permit, you will probably need individual permits from OCRM and the Army Corps. These permits have additional fees, require additional information, and take longer to acquire. Before incurring these fees, please contact SCDNR Shellfish Management at one of the numbers below to schedule a conference.